

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 303632
ORIGIN ARA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

S E C R E T STATE 303632

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, OAS, HO, ES

SUBJECT: OAS PEACEKEEPING MISSION

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 5882

1. DEPARTMENT STRONGLY SHARES VIEWS EXPRESSED IN REFTEL THAT FAILURE TO EXTEND OAS PEACEKEEPING MISSION BEYOND JAN. 15 COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT MEDIATOR'S EFFORT TO SEEK FINAL SOLUTION OF EL SALVADOR-HONDURAS BORDER DISPUTE.
2. ACCORDINGLY, YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO IMPRESS UPON BOTH GOES AND GOH AT HIGH LEVEL THAT USG CONSIDERS IT ESSENTIAL THAT OAS MISSION BE CONTINUED UNTIL BUSTAMANTE MEDIATION EFFORT HAS BEEN CONCLUDED.

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3. QUITE CLEARLY BUSTAMANTE, A MAN OF PRESTIGE, HAS ACCEPTED MEDIATOR ROLE WITH THE FIRM INTENTION OF BRINGING IT TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. MOREOVER, GIVEN HIS AGE, HE NO DOUBT WISHES TO CAP HIS LONG CAREER IN PUBLIC LIFE BY ACHIEVING A SETTLEMENT TO THE SEVEN-YEAR-OLD DISPUTE BETWEEN EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS. IT HAS BECOME POSSIBLE TO ADDRESS QUESTIONS OF MEDIATION ONLY NOW THAT SITUATION

IN THE BORDER AREAS HAS BECOME REASONABLY STABLE. STABILITY HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN GREAT MEASURE THANKS TO PRESENCE OF THE OAS MISSION. IT WOULD BE IN OUR EYES A GRAVE DISSERVICE TO REMOVE THIS STABILIZING ELEMENT AND CREATE A SITUATION IN WHICH EITHER ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER MIGHT BEGIN SEEKING TO GAIN RELATIVE ADVANTAGES THEY DO NOT CURRENTLY HAVE IN THE BORDER AREAS.

4. OUR OAS SOURCES ARE UNAWARE OF ANY GOES/GOH INTENTION TO SUSPEND THE PEACEKEEPING MISSION AS OF JANUARY 15. SYG ORFILA'S OFFICE IS NOW CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF INVITING BUSTAMANTE TO WASHINGTON WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS FOR COMPLETE BRIEFING. IF BUSTAMANTE DOES COME TO WASHINGTON SHORTLY, OAS WILL ENCOURAGE HIM TO INSIST THAT TWO PARTIES MAINTAIN THE OAS MISSION THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF HIS MEDIATION EFFORTS. VANCE

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